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EDITORIAL

Dear Alumni,

Another eventful year at Offenburg University comes to an end. With this annual newsletter we hope to provide you with the latest news about the University and life on campus.

We were pleased to share many unforgettable moments with you. Among them surely were the International Fest at the Offenburg marketplace and the alumni get-together at Brauereigaststätte Brandeck. Thank you and come back soon!

We'd like to keep you informed about the university and its alumni so please feel free to contact us if you have some information to share.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas season and all the best for 2016.

The Graduate School Team

NEWS

NEW LOGO FOR THE UNIVERSITY

On 30 July this year, Rector Winfried Lieber officially launched Offenburg University's new logo.



Inspired by the "GroßeOffenBurg" sculpture installed in the roundabout next to the Offenburg campus since 2008, the new design was created by Tobias Schächtele, a current student of "medien.gestaltung und production."

GROUNDBREAKING FOR THE PETER OSYPKA INSTITUTE FOR PACING AND ABLATION

In September 2015, a groundbreaking ceremony took place together with Prof. Peter Osypka, who donated 2 million euros to the University. As a result, the medical-engineering institute will soon have a building of its own, named in Osypka's honor.



Rector Lieber and Prof. Peter Osypka at the Groundbreaking

As soon as in March next year, 150 students of medical engineering will be able to pursue their studies and research in the brand-new building.

OFFENBURG UNIVERSITY MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION (EUA)

After a months-long affiliation process, Offenburg University this year has become a member of the European University Association, where currently 850 member universities from 47 different countries are represented, all of them with a special focus on research. In the past four years, new research institutes were founded on campus, among them the "Institut für Energiesystemtechnik" (INES) and "Institute for Unmanned Aerial Systems" (IUAS). Postgraduate programs such as "Kleinskalige Erneuerbare Energiesysteme" (KleE) or "Dezentrale nachhaltige Energiesysteme" (DENE) have been

initiated, and in January 2015 the state government awarded the project "Regionales Innovationszentrum für Energietechnik" (RIZ Energie). Construction of a new lab building at the Offenburg campus, where research and development in the fields of environmental technology, renewable energies and efficiency of resources will be concentrated, is scheduled to begin within the next few years.

A FACELIFT FOR THE STUDENT CAFETERIA

This year our campus is expanding at an impressive pace. In about two months from now we can hope to relax and enjoy our meals again in the newly renovated *Mensa*. Despite increasingly wintry weather conditions in recent weeks, construction and refurbishment work has continued. The new cafeteria building will have an enlarged area of 415 m², seating about 250.



The *Mensa* in December 2015

MORE SPACE FOR THE LIBRARY

A long-standing wish has come true: At last, our students have enough places to work in peace and quiet at the university library. The new annex building offers around 60 study places on the gallery, ten barrier-free places on the ground floor and eight places by the magazine stands for "short-term reading." The total area of the library is now 753 m².



In addition, the present reading room is going to be renovated in April next year. An automated book-return system is also in planning. Meanwhile, the library in Gengenbach has gained an extra room with four group workplaces and about 15 single workplaces.

INTERCULTURAL CERTIFICATE

Starting with the 2015/16 winter semester, the International Center issues "Intercultural Competence" certificates for students who regularly participate in intercultural events and interact with international students, but do not have the opportunity to study abroad themselves. Besides the positive impact this has in terms of personal enrichment and experience, the certificate is meant to strengthen students' profile for their future careers. A minimum score of '10' must be achieved to qualify for the certificate. The first student already to be awarded the certificate was Karin Kunze, student of "medien.gestaltung und produktion."



Prof. Torsten Schneider and Karin Kunze with the first Intercultural Certificate awarded at Hochschule Offenburg

SPRACHENCAFÉ

A new activity at Offenburg University since October is the World Café. In an informal and relaxed atmosphere students can use and improve their foreign language skills chatting with people from around the world. Our first session was a huge success which we hope to continue in the future. The meetings take place in room E 410 every second Thursday of the month from 5:30 to 7 p.m. If you are around, we would be very happy for you to join us! Please register by email to: vera.vanie@hs-offenburg.de

OFFENBURG GREETES ALABAMA

One of the keywords occupying German universities these days is "Internationalisation". The aim is to generate new opportunities for student and staff exchange as well as for joint research projects. In November two members of Offenburg University, Ms Birgit Teubner-Jatzlau, head of the International Office, and I, Prof. Torsten Schneider, scientific director of the International Center spent a busy week in the federal state of Alabama in the US. Alabama borders on the Gulf of Mexico and in the civil war during the 1860s became member of the southern Confederate States of America, partly in rejection of the abolition of slavery in the north.



We were members of a delegation from several universities of applied sciences in Baden-Württemberg. The photo depicts the delegation in front of the football stadium of the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, with us two at the far left.

We visited all seven universities in Alabama with engineering faculties. Interestingly, two of them were founded to give former slaves basic knowledge in agriculture and technology. Even nowadays they cater for a mainly non-Caucasian studentship. We were well received in all places. Our homework now is to carry our perceptions into the various faculties at Offenburg University. A return visit of an Alabama delegation is planned for 2016 in connection with the annual industrial trade fair in Hannover

EVENTS

GRADUATION CEREMONY

564 Offenburg-University students received their graduation certificates at a fully packed Oberrheinhalle on 16 October, among them several international Graduate School students. The musical part of the celebration was contributed by the University's band orchestra for the first time in history.



Graduates of the 2015 Summer Semester

The keynote speaker at this year's graduation ceremony was Dr. Ulrich Kleine, CEO of the electric power station "Elektrizitätswerk Mittelbaden," who also serves as head of the University Council since the beginning of this winter semester. "Have respect for new situations – but don't be afraid of them. If this is your motto for life, you will be able to cope even with people like myself," Kleine told the graduates in his speech. He congratulated them all for having successfully finished their degree, and so do we! Congratulations!

INTERNATIONAL EVENING 2015

On November 19, the International Evening was celebrated for the 24th time. Every year, our new international students amaze and enchant us with insights to their home countries, breathtaking pictures, musical performances and other cultural entertainment, always presented with a sense of humor and fun.

This year's ten performing countries were China, Colombia, India, France, Germany, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Nigeria, and Pakistan. As always, a delicious international buffet was served afterwards, prepared by the students.



Students from Indonesia ready to dance



The audience by the International Evening



International Students enjoying the Evening



German students prepared traditional regional cuisine

ALUMNI GET TOGETHER / INTERNATIONAL FEST

In June 2015, the night before Offenburg's biannual International Fest, the Graduate School's alumni meeting brought together a variety of guests at one of Offenburg's top evening spots, the Brandeck Brewery beer garden. The lovely location combined with warm and pleasant June weather attracted not only alumni of the Graduate School, but also many current students interested in chatting with the alumni, exchanging experiences and learning about future work opportunities in Germany or nearby Switzerland. Also in attendance were the Director of the International Center, Professor Schneider, and some of the Graduate School's coordinators, who

were happy to see some of their 'protégés' again. Beneath the canopy of ancient chestnuts, and encouraged by a Helles or two, communication was lively and a good time was had by all well into the next day.



The meet-up continued on the next day at the Marktplatz, where Hochschule Offenburg staffed a booth as part of the International Fest. Both Offenburg Mayor Edith Schreiner and Green party state representative Thomas Marwein visited our booth and were excited to learn about the diversity of nationalities present on campus and culturally enriching the city.



Offenburg Mayor Edith Schreiner at the Hochschule's booth

Offering Ethiopian coffee and hot salsa rhythms, the students and alumni chatted up with Offenburg citizens and even broke out into dance with them from time to time. The Graduate School Team is surely looking forward to the next alumni get-together!

IMPRINT

IMPRINT: Offenburg University of Applied Sciences, Offenburg/Germany

EDITORIAL TEAM: Graduate School Staff

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